

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 IO-13 SP-02 INR-10 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 /057 W

-----060531 142318Z /14-S

R 142156Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0348  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 15092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG UNGA ILO EG

SUBJECT: EGYPT ADOPTING DEFENSIVE POSTURE IN MULTILATERAL

- FORA

REF: (A) USUN 2340 (NOTAL), (B) GENEVA 8670 (NOTAL),

- (C) TEL AVIV 7501

SUMMARY. EGYPTIANS FEELING ISOLATED IN INTERNATIONAL FORA  
AS RESULT STALLED PEACE PROCESS, RADICAL ARAB ATTACKS  
AND AGGRESSIVE ISRAELI POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.  
ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NOT ADMIT IT, THERE IS ALSO A WIDE-  
SPREAD FEELING OF HUMILIATION. HUMILIATION MAY EXPLAIN  
ALSO SADAT'S RECENT FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS. WHILE  
TOUGHER GOE POSTURE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA UNFORTUNATE  
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SINCE IT WILL NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTE TO ISRAELI FEARS AND  
CONCERNS, THERE IS NO INDICATION IT WILL AFFECT SADAT'S  
COMMITMENT TO PEACE NOR GOE'S DESIRE TO CONSULT CLOSELY  
WITH US ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO PEACE PROCESS. WE  
URGE CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH GOE AND, ABOVE ALL,  
HOPE WE CAN AVOID VOTING AGAINST EGYPT ON RESOLUTIONS  
OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO PEACE PROCESS. SUCH A MOVE BY

HIS AMERICAN "PARTNER" COULD MAKE SADAT'S HUMILIATION TOTAL. END SUMMARY.

1. SEVEN MONTHS AFTER SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM, GOE CLEARLY FEELING ISOLATED IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AS RESULT STALLED PEACE PROCESS. VAST MAJORITY OF EGYPTIANS HAD THOUGHT, GIVEN ENORMITY OF SADAT'S CONCESSIONS, SETTLEMENT WOULD BE REACHED BY NOW. EGYPTIAN FEELING OF EXPOSURE, WHICH BORDERING ON HUMILIATION, EXACERBATED BY INCREASINGLY BOLD ATTACKS OF RADICAL ARABS, MOST RECENTLY AT DAKAR (ISLAMIC FORMINS) AND HAVANA (NACC). (EMBASSY AGREES WITH YUGOSLAV ASSESSMENT (REF A) THAT AT HAVANA SOLE GOE AIM WAS TO AVOID DIRECT CRITICISM OF SADAT AND THEY SUCCEEDED AT PRICE OF GOING ALONG WITH ANTI-U.S. LANGUAGE.)

2. EGYPTIAN HUMILIATION. TOUGHER EGYPTIAN POSITION IS NOT JUST BECAUSE ISRAEL HAS FAILED TO RESPOND IN MEANINGFUL WAY TO SADAT INITIATIVE (SADAT HAS RECOGNIZED THEY "NEED MORE TIME"), BUT BECAUSE OF CONTINUING ISRAELI CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION OF SETTLEMENTS AND GOING FULL STEAM AHEAD ON EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND GAS RESOURCES IN SINAI. THESE ACTIONS ARE, IN THE EYES OF EGYPTIANS AND MOST ARABS, EXTREMELY HUMILIATING TO SADAT. IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHETHER GOI MEANS THEM TO BE. FURTHERMORE, ISRAELI PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT EXPLOITATION OF OIL CONFIDENTIAL

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IN SINAI "WILL IN NO WAY BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH CONCLUSION OF PEACE TREATY" (REF C) ARE MEANINGLESS SINCE GOI USED TO SAY SAME THING ABOUT SETTLEMENTS. EGYPTIANS ALMOST UNIVERSALLY BELIEVE THAT FOR SADAT TO MAKE ANY FURTHER GESTURE OR TO IGNORE THESE ISRAELI "INSULTS" WOULD BE TOTALLY INDEFENSIBLE. THIS FEELING OF HUMILIATION OF SADAT MAY, IN FACT, BE THE BEST EXPLANATION OF HIS GROWING IMPATIENCE WITH PEACE PROCESS, HIS DECISION TO PUBLICLY DISCUSS WAR OPTION AND EVEN HIS RECENT INTERN CRACKDOWN. HE SIMPLY MAY FEEL HE IS TOO VULNERABLE TO PERMIT ANY FURTHER DOMESTIC CRITICISM.

3. PRIMARY EGYPTIAN AIM IS TO AVOID DIRECT CONDEMNATION AND IT HAS NOT SUPPORTED EXTREMIST ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS SUCH AS IRAQI RESOLUTION IN SSOD. HOWEVER, GOE MIGHT NOT VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION IF IT COMES TO VOTE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS THIS YEAR WITH MFA OFFICIALS ON CURREN ILO CONFERENCE, THEY ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE RELUCTANT TO TAKE WHAT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY RADICALS AS PRO-ISRAELI POSITION. THIS IS IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH THEIR ATTITUDE LAST YEAR AND IN GENEVA THEY MAY SUPPORT ARAB POSITION (REF B).

4. CHANGE IN GOE POSTURE UNFORTUNATE SINCE IT WILL NO  
DOUBT CONTRIBUTE TO ISRAELI CONCERNS ABOUT EGYPT'S  
COMMITMENT TO PEACE PROCESS AND ULTIMATE INTENTIONS.  
WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, MAINTAIN OUR PERSPECTIVE, AND PERHAPS  
ATTEMPT TO CONVEY SOME OF IT TO ISRAELIS.

5. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT CHANGE IN  
GOE POSTURE WILL AFFECT SADAT'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE  
PROCESS NOR GOE'S STRATEGY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 IO-13 SP-02 INR-10 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 /057 W

-----060648 142319Z /14-S

R 142156Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0349

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 15092

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO PEACE  
PROCESS. ON CONTRARY, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE ASSURED US  
THAT WHEN AND IF GOE BELIEVES TIME HAS COME TO TAKE NEW  
INITIATIVES IN NEW YORK, THEY WILL CONSULT FULLY WITH US  
BEFOREHAND. THEY ALSO WISH TO CONTINUE CONSULTING WITH  
US ON OTHER MULTILATERAL ISSUES. WE URGE DEPARTMENT  
AND U.S. DELS TO CONTINUE CONSULT WITH EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUE  
AND DEMONSTRATE UNDERSTANDING FOR UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION  
THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN VIS-A-VIS OTHER ARABS. ABOVE ALL  
WE SHOULD AVOID ALLOWING OURSELVES TO BE PLACED IN  
POSITION WHERE WE HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST EGYPT ON RESOLU-

TION OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO PEACE PROCESS. THAT COULD  
MAKE SADAT'S HUMILIATION TOTAL. EILTS

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